

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for providing images to a client computer over a computer network, comprising:

5 receiving a request from the client computer to an image server for an image;

determining the unavailability of client computer image display characteristics to the image server; and

10 selecting a set of default image display characteristics to adjust the requested image in accordance with the set of default characteristics for display on the client computer, the set of default image display characteristics being unrelated to the image display characteristics of the client computer.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the set of default image display characteristics comprises:

selecting a set of default image display characteristics to adjust the image in accordance with the set of default characteristics for display on the client computer, the set of default image display characteristics being based on the average image display characteristics of a plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics.

25 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising, prior to selecting the set of default characteristics:

determining one or more sets of default image display characteristics based on the average image display characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein determining one or more sets of default image display characteristics comprises:

    determining groups of the computer clients having known image display characteristics; and

5      calculating a set of default image display characteristics for each group of computer clients having known image display characteristics.

10     5. The method of claim 3, wherein determining one or more sets of default image display characteristics comprises:

    calculating one set of default image display characteristics for substantially all computer clients having known image display characteristics.

15     6. The method of claim 3, wherein determining one or more sets of default image display characteristics comprises:

    determining a group of computer clients having known image display characteristics that are visually perceived as substantially uniform by a viewer; and

20      calculating a set of default image display characteristics for the group of computer clients.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining the group of computer clients having known image display characteristics that are visually perceived as substantially uniform by a viewer comprises:

25      determining the group having the largest number of computer clients having known image display characteristics that are visually perceived as substantially uniform by a viewer.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein determining the group having the largest number of computer clients having known image display characteristics that are visually perceived as substantially uniform by a viewer comprises:

5       determining the coordinates that are within a selected distance of the maximum number of coordinate points in a multidimensional parameter space comprising the characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics, the selected distance encompassing image display characteristics that are  
10      visually perceived as substantially uniform by a viewer.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein calculating the set of default image display characteristics for the group of  
15      computer clients comprises:

      determining the center of a multidimensional parameter space comprising the characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics.

20      10. The method of claim 7, wherein calculating the set of default image display characteristics for the group of computer clients comprises:

      determining coordinates in a multidimensional parameter space comprising the characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics, the coordinates representative of a set of default image display characteristics that maximize the amount of image adjustment for all computer clients on the  
30      computer network.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein calculating the set of default image display characteristics for the group of computer clients comprises:

5 determining coordinates in a multidimensional parameter space comprising the characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics, the coordinates representative of a set of default image display characteristics that minimize the amount of image degradation for all computer clients on the  
10 computer network.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein determining the one or more sets of default image display characteristics comprises:

15 determining the one or more sets of default image display characteristics in response to each received image request.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

20 adjusting the requested image in accordance with the selected one of the one or more sets of default characteristics determined in response to the received image request.

25 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising, prior to determining the one or more sets of default image display characteristics in response to each received image request:

30 updating a database comprising the characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics to determine the one or more sets of default image display characteristics.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

adjusting the requested image in accordance with the selected one of the one or more sets of default characteristics determined in response to the received  
5 image request.

16. The method of claim 3, wherein determining one or more sets of default image display characteristics comprises:

periodically determining one or more sets of default  
10 image display characteristics based on the average image display characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

15 adjusting the requested image in accordance with the selected one of the latest one or more sets of default characteristics.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising, prior to  
20 periodically determining the one or more sets of default image display characteristics:

updating a database comprising the characteristics of the plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics to determine the one or more sets  
25 of default image display characteristics.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

adjusting the requested image in accordance with the selected one of the latest one or more sets of default  
30 characteristics.

20. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

selecting an image in response to the request, the image being adjusted in accordance with the selected set of default image display characteristics.

5 21. The method of claim 20, wherein selecting an image adjusted in accordance with the selected set of default image display characteristics comprises:

10 selecting an image adjusted in accordance with the selected set of default image display characteristics from a plurality of adjusted images.

22. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the set of default image display characteristics comprises:

15 selecting the set of default image display characteristics based on the average image display characteristics of a plurality of computer clients having known image display characteristics including one or more of input/output characteristics, color rendering capabilities, and spatial rendering properties.

20 23. The method of claim 22, wherein selecting the set of default image display characteristics further comprises:

25 selecting the set of default image display characteristics based on characteristics of the requesting client computer including one or more of software characteristics and communication characteristics.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein selecting the set of default image display characteristics further comprises:

30 selecting the set of default image display characteristics based on characteristics of the requesting

client computer including the relative age of a client computer display monitor.

25. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

5 prompting a user of the client computer to provide information regarding the client computer; and  
selecting the set of default image display characteristics comprises:

10 selecting the set of default image display characteristics based on information provided by the user.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein prompting a user of the client computer to provide information regarding the client computer comprises:

15 prompting a user of the client computer to provide information regarding the display monitor of the client computer including one or more of the display monitor type, display monitor age, and display monitor location.

20 27. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

providing the selected set of default image display characteristics to the image server to adjust the requested image in accordance with the set of default characteristics for display on a computer client display monitor.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein providing the selected set of default characteristics to the image server comprises:

30 providing the selected set of default characteristics and the requested image to the image server to adjust the requested image in accordance with the set of default

characteristics for display on a computer client display monitor.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein receiving the request  
5 comprises:

receiving the request at an image request server; and  
providing the selected set of default image display  
characteristics to the image server comprises:

bouncing the client computer over the network to the  
10 image server.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the computer network  
is an Internet, an intranet, or a local area network.

15 31. The method of claim 30, wherein determining the  
unavailability of client computer image display  
characteristics to the image server comprises:

determining the unavailability of a client computer  
cookie to the image request server, the cookie related to  
20 the image display characteristics of the client computer.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein bouncing the client  
computer comprises:

distributing JavaScript or VBScript to the client  
25 computer to bounce the client computer over the network to  
the image server.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein bouncing the client  
computer comprises:

30 distributing HTML, XML, or other mark-up language  
commands to redirect the client computer over the network  
to the image server.

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